

Welcome

Join in saying the underlined words in **bold** type together.

Prayer of Gathering

From Psalm 52:8 Like a green olive tree in the House of God "Prayer Handbook 2013" p.75

1. With roots in the soil
Of past generations

We worship you,
Living, loving God.

2. Through layers of soil
At times fertile,
At other times depleted,

We reach for experience and
Sustenance from saints of old.

3. And in our own time, we offer to you, fresh shoots and new ideas
Borne upon branches shaped and gnarled by life,

And pray our worship shall be to you fruitful, sweet and rich. Amen

Prayer of Approach *Adapted from Roots 3 February 2019*

Father, our understanding of Love is frail and faltering.
We cannot even understand the loves of our earthly lives.
And so, we look to you as we learn and explore what love is.
Lead us, Lord, that we may grow in love towards you
And towards one another. **Amen**

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Roots 3 February 2019*

You are the God of Love.

We worship and adore you as the source of all love.

We are illuminated by your love.

We look to your light and we marvel in your majesty.

And we revel in being loved by you. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.86*

God of all earth, we give you thanks for this sacred time.
May the very air be infused with your presence
That all who enter, may breathe you in,
And be filled with your love and peace
And the joy of knowing you. **Amen**

***Pause for silence & reflection- consider the 7
colours of the rainbow and wonder why the
Greeks identified 7 types of love...***



Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 3 February 2019*

We use the word "love" so freely that it lacks its real meaning.
We say it of so many things but we restrict the people we say it to
As we do not want to seem over-friendly or too eager.
We confess that we are confused about the meaning of YOUR love.
The complexities of love baffle us often leaving us tongue-tied and inactive
In situations where expressing it is needed the most.
We confess too, that we often do not receive love well either,
As we can be too proud or suspicious of the motive.
Teach us about your love and how to share it. **Amen.**

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.10*

Father, my love is sometimes imperfect.
YOUR love is accepting of my faults
And you forgive, over and over.
Forgive me my lack of love in places where human need and greed rule the roost.
Forgive me for my silent inaction when dislike gets the upper hand.
Show me loving God, how to live YOUR love at the centre of my world,
So that I may build bridges not walls and create dialogue, not silence.
Help me to be engaged and loving so that my enemies are transformed into allies
In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession for -

1. Those weary of life *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.15.*

We pray for all who experience poverty
And those who experience being paid below a living wage
Which makes daily life a constant grind for survival.
We pray for those who experience hunger
And those who have to depend on humanitarian aid & food banks
Which makes every day a humiliating and exhausting time.
We pray for those who experience chronic physical pain & mental illness
And those who experience bereavement and loneliness
Which makes them feel hopeless for their future.
Help those of us in more fortunate positions, to challenge unfair & unjust policies.
May we build a world based on sharing of resources.
May we create and sustain caring communities.
Give us the love to always try to make a better life for all. **Amen**

2. World Cancer Day February 4 *ideas online*

Father, surround those with cancer with love, strength and courage.
Replace fear and hopelessness with courage.
Strengthen frail spirits when they grow weary of the constant challenges of cancer.
Assist those in great pain by embracing them with love.
Console those who are ill and remove the heaviness from their hearts.
We ask YOUR hands to touch them with the power of healing
Either directly or through your healing representatives- the medical teams
Who work tirelessly to provide healing and palliative care.
Encourage the families of those who are sick to be loving and patient.
Watch over them, as they try to continue their daily lives with the added stress
Of caring for someone under the cloud of serious illness.
May the love of Jesus enable everyone to deal with the pressures of sickness.
Together with you, they can handle everything. **Amen**

3. Lord, we pray for those in our Church congregation who are unwell.
We name in our hearts those we know who are suffering,
Those who are convalescent and those awaiting medical treatment. *PAUSE*
Lord, bring them healing and hope.
Help us to show practical friendship when possible.

We pray for those who mourn and for whom the New Year stretches long and lonely.
Lord, bring them your comfort and our friendship. Amen

Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about AND
Time for those present to add their prayers, if they wish to,
for the life of St John's & St Martin's, our communities & the World
either in open prayer
or by using stones symbolically & placing them at the foot of the Cross.

Closing Prayer *Adapted from "Roots 9 February 2019*

Let the pure light of God's love shine through us
So we can display the full spectrum of your rainbow of love
And illuminate the gloomiest corners of our communities.
Show us where your love is needed,
And help us to be fearless in sharing it. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



To pray for the work of our Church and the life of our community

Wednesdays: 6th at 11.15a.m. & 20th February at 8p.m. 2019

Number 66
St John's URC Northwood